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The Daily Press.

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been recorded. One of the brightest examples of the kind is to be found in the request of some Japanese ladies to be allowed to go and nurse the wounded. The story of Kikuko's noble work would seem to have travelled to the Land of the Rising Sun, and to have animated its daughters with the same tender, compassionate, and self-sacrificing spirit. From all accounts, there is plenty of scope for such work now in the South, as the number of wounded is reported to be very large. It is satisfactory to hear that the offer of the ladies has been accepted, for they can do more to alleviate and soothe the sufferings of the wounded than male nurses, however kindly disposed the latter may be. But perhaps the most striking feature in connection with the net on the part of the Japanese ladies is the proof it affords of the progress the Japanese people have made in assimilating their customs to those of the West. It is difficult to imagine Chinese ladies emulating such an example, but women in Japan have never been kept in the background to the extent they have been in the Central Kingdom. Japanese women have been allowed more freedom and influence, and their education has been more advanced. It is, probably, in some degree owing to this fact that Japan has made so much greater advance than her neighbour. Whatever woman is kept in subjection and isolation these most undoubtedly will be found a lethargic and corrupt Government, hating change and unwilling to allow the admission of light lest it may prove fatal to its system of administration. In Japan, fortunately, female education is being encouraged and extended, and there is a very decided disposition shown to improve the position of the woman.

It is probable that the war with Turkey will interfere with at least one great scheme the CAAR had in hand—namely, the proposed railway from Orenburg to Central Asia. From the survey made for this line, it appears that the total length of the Taschkent line will be 2,100 versts, of which 600 are from Orenburg to the Lake Koulouk, the point of bifurcation, and 1,500 from the bifurcation to Taschkent, and 800 from the branch line of Trouska. Considering that the total length is more than five times that of the line from St. Petersburg to Moscow, for which a fresh loan of \$26,400,000 was raised in 1865, followed by another of \$12,000,000 sterling issued in 1869, a third of \$8,000,000 in 1880, and a fourth of \$15,000,000 issued in 1882 (the latter three partly to cover financial deficits and partly for the construction of railways), it is not likely that any attempt will be made at present to proceed with the Central Asian Railway scheme, which will probably remain one of the future Russian credit.

far too low to admit of her being able to obtain a loan for the purpose, so for some years at least the great project for connecting Central Asia and eventually China, with the capital of Moscow must be abandoned.

The Deutsche Dampfschiff-Reederei at Hamburg, trading to the China ports, leaves its report and balance-sheet for the past year, and states in it that a dividend for 1876 has been distributed. The whole net profit after all expenses, including the cost of the ship, the directors take it as necessary to make the dividend of 10 per cent. of the total of \$4,327,218 in the course of the year. The Company has at present eight large steamers, and is expected to add two more, the *Prinzess Alice*, *Prinzess Alice*, and *Prinzess Alice*, in addition to the establishment owned by the Hamburg firm. The new steamer *Prinzess Alice* was delivered at the beginning of the year, and is expected to leave for the China ports in the early part of the year. The first voyage of the vessel to Shanghai and return has proved her to be very competent for the purposes of this company. The Board state the position of the company as a healthy one, notwithstanding the considerable loss of the past year; as this loss is only the consequence of the very low rates of freight and the remarkable competition in the trade with China, and is not a reflection on the management of the company, which is very profitable to secure, and the company will undoubtedly participate in it.—London and China Express.

HONGKONG HUMANE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Humane Society was convened for yesterday afternoon. There were present Messrs. Wilson, Burd (hon. sec.), Rammall, Denny, Arthur, Salisbury, Naylor, Mr. Wilson, &c.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting.

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